

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request consideration of the subject application as amended herein. This Amendment is submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed September 20, 2005. Claims 1, 2, 4-24 and 26-37 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 12-17, 21-24 and 26-32 are rejected. Claims 9-11, 18-20 and 33-37 are allowed. In this Amendment, Claims 1, 12, 21 and 26 have been amended. No claim has been canceled. Applicants submit that this Amendment does not add new matter.

35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-2, 4-8, 12-17, 21-24 and 26-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. Particularly, the Examiner stated that it is unclear with respect to what element of the two portion of the lip are compared in the phrase “the lip is angled, such that an inner portion of the lip is higher than an outer portion of the lip.” Claims 1, 12, 21, and 26 has been amended to recite, “the lip is angled such that an inner portion of an upper surface of the lip is higher than an outer portion of the upper surface of the lip...”

Applicants submit that claims 1-2, 4-8, 12-17, 21-24 and 26-32 in their currently amended forms comply with § 112, second paragraph, and therefore request withdrawal of this rejection.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-2, 4-8, 12-17, 21-24 and 26-32 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Nagamine, (U.S. Application No.2002/0053319, hereinafter “Nagamine”). As discussed below, the pending claims are patentable over the above reference.

In their currently amended form, claims 1-2, 4-8, 12-17, 21-24 and 26-32 require the lip being angled such that an inner portion of an upper surface of the lip is higher than an outer portion of the upper surface of the lip, and wherein the lip comprises a top lip having an inner tip curving downward toward a plane of the semiconductor substrate support.

Applicant respectfully submits that Nagamine does not anticipate claims 1-2, 4-8, 12-17, 21-24 and 26-32 because Nagamine does not teach “the lip is angled such that an inner portion of an upper surface of the lip is higher than an outer portion of the upper surface of the lip, and wherein the lip comprises a top lip having an inner tip curving downward toward a plane of the semiconductor substrate support.”

For the at least reasons above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-2, 4-8, 12-17, 21-24 and 26-32 are not anticipated by Nagamine.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 9-11 18-20 and 33-37 are allowed.

If the Examiner determines the prompt allowance of these claims could be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Mimi Dao at (408) 720-8300.

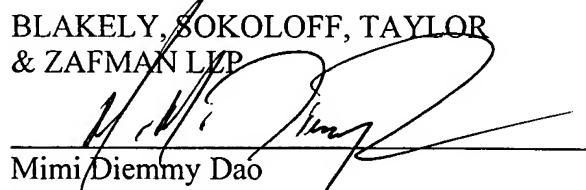
Deposit Account Authorization

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if an extension is required, then Applicant hereby requests such extension.

Respectfully submitted,

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